

DRAFT COMPARISON OF SAIC AND WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS 10-28-2005

SAIC RECOMMENDATIONS	SC RANKING	SC COMMENT ON SAIC TASK	WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS	WORKSHOP PRIORITY	COMMENT DISCUSSION
LEGEND OF THIS TABLE					
Rankings of NED Steering Committee					
Priority in White Papers					
DATA CONTENT					
Research and post inventory(ies) of existing standards and protocols in the region.	II		Maintain and update regional data exchange and sharing protocols in a regional data dictionary accessible via the www. Focus on establishing minimum data exchange and sharing protocols for future data collection and management efforts	Data Content – short term	
Develop and post regional data network standards for reporting geographic data: locations and projections	II				
Incorporate regional data network requirements into future grants and contracts.	II	Yes. As soon as they become available, across participating funding agencies	Maintain and update regional data sharing and exchange protocols via dynamic web-based dictionary	Data Content – longer term	From Tech Arc.
Develop and post Regional Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures and protocols.	II	Detailed Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures can be jointly developed by data staff and data collection entities. QA/QC is missing in many of the existing programs.			
Complete the preliminary inventory of information resources in the region.	II				
Develop and post a regional data network guidance manual that documents everything needed to become a regional data network participant.	II				
			Identify costs of developing, deploying, and maintaining needed standards and protocols	Data Content – short term	Move to financing
			Develop education and outreach program to promote use of standards	Data Content – short term	Move to outreach
			Link project and study approvals to use of regional	Data Content –	Move to governance

			standards	short term	
FINANCE AND BUSINESS CASE					
Support regional data network using financial arrangements and participation incentives.	Review need & rank				
Develop the regional data network as a base-funding category, not to be recompleted for on an annual basis.	I	See funding. Consultation is needed to develop further understanding on the willingness and ways that stakeholders are willing to contribute to a regional system.			
Redirect resources to support development of regional data network nodes at originating data sources.	Review need & rank				
Develop a long-term resource plan (staff and dollars) for the regional data network.	III	Meet critical short-term objectives first.			
Develop a funding and resource support workgroup.	Review need & rank				
			Establish information portal that links existing resources (with Columbia Basin as focal point)	Financing – short term	Move to outreach
			Explore pilot project	Financing – short term	
			Explore other network options to leverage (e.g., Exchange Network)	Financing – short term	
			Leverage grant opportunities and partnerships	Financing – short term	
			Organize executive funding symposium	Financing – short term	
			Build long-term funding strategy	Financing – longer term	
			Compile regionally relevant cost/benefit information	Financing – longer term	
			Show costs if data sharing is not achieved	Financing – longer term	
			Revise and advance existing “qualitative” business case presentation	Business case	
			Conduct functional assessment of major databases and database technologies in the PNW and supporting standards and metadata	Business case	
			Convene principals of major resource databases to formalize consensus supporting value of data network (expand NED signatories)	Business case	
			Evaluate potential and requirements for “quantitative” business case (estimate costs to develop such a case)	Business case	
GOVERNANCE					
Conduct periodic evaluation of the relationship between goals and information management	Review need & rank				

Establish a high-level agreement (MOU or stronger document) endorsing a regional data network and pledging signatory support.	I	NOAA Fisheries and the NWPPC have signed a cooperative agreement. The project team is recommending that the MOA be expanded through direct consultation to extend the cooperative effort and to add other organizations when and if they are willing to participate. See draft MOU.			MOU is complete and has been signed by some entities
Formalize an accountable regional data network administrative framework.	I	Currently this element does not exist at a regional level. The project team is proposing an approach that recognizes the critical importance of data networking and management while building on current institutional arrangements and decision-making, processes.	Present regional workshop findings to regional executives	Governance	
			Identify essential additional partners and champions to support participation	Governance	
Identify a regional data network Coordinator and Project Manager.	I	In progress: Program Coordinator. Technical Project planner/manager should be involved when needed. To date the NMFS and the NWPPC have provided support for coordination functions under the existing MOA. A ½ time FTE is planned, but not yet funded for FY 2004. Some consultant support is also needed.			
Write a long-term regional information system development plan.	III	A long-term plan is needed to guide investment and staffing decisions. Organizational investments in IT will return more in a more certain and planned environment. The plan however, needs to deal with issues that support the development in the region, of a distributed database management system. It is critical to understand that regardless of individual agency efforts, improvements to the overall network require base level efforts on protocols and standards – all the elements in 1-6 above.			
Develop a process for evaluating proposed project relevance to goals as part of the grant and contract process.	III	Longer term			
Develop a strong operations and maintenance plan.	III				
Develop an overall regional management strategy.	Review need &	Not a data network responsibility			

	rank				
Further evaluate regional information needs against available information resources to develop acquisition strategy.	Review need & rank		Identify current lines of authority and/or obligations – use business case to encourage participation	Governance	
			Finalize formal governance and cost-share arrangement	Governance	
			Develop, fund, complete, and review actions for regional data sharing/discovery	Governance	
			Conduct annual executive-level review for regional data sharing signatories	Governance	
OUTREACH					
Develop management and public information/communications work groups as part of the regional administrative structure.	Review need & rank				
Expand regional outreach and investigation to other segments of the regional community not included in the original requirements analysis.	Review need & rank				
Conduct regionwide public workshops to advertise and seek feedback on recommendations.	Review need & rank				
Develop a regional public data outreach strategy.	Review need & rank				
Conduct an annual regional data network workshop.	Review need & rank				
Expand outreach efforts to seek buy-in from other key decision-makers and stakeholders in the region. Develop targeted outreach and education materials for key regional data network participants and supporters that clearly outline the need for a regional data network and describe the benefits and costs for such an endeavor. Ensure this outreach approach addresses the need for long-term support for a regional data network to succeed.	I	The first emphasis here is on executive level consultation with stakeholders on plans, obligations and expectations. At the same time, further public outreach is essential to raise awareness.			
Develop communication and coordination hub of regional data network.	I	Web site			
			Develop NED brand and logo	Outreach and Marketing – short term	Logo is on development
			Develop pamphlets and handouts to describe NED capabilities	Outreach and Marketing –	

				short term	
			Develop relationships with various data exchange groups	Outreach and Marketing – short term	
			Develop test site to show power of data linkages	Outreach and Marketing – short term	Move to tech.
			Develop detailed plan to enlist support of agencies who generate data	Outreach and Marketing – longer term	
			Develop glossaries and other tools to provide info to public and decision-makers	Outreach and Marketing – longer term	Related to content tasks
			Develop granting program to “sell” NED project	Outreach and Marketing – longer term	
			Develop website that addresses data questions for wide range of stakeholders	Outreach and Marketing – longer term	Related to tech task
			Develop speakers bureau to educate about data sharing	Outreach and Marketing – longer term	
DATA TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE					
Develop documentation standards for data processing and analysis.	Review need & rank				
Develop system security protocols.	Review need & rank				
Develop and post common database designs for similar information types.	Review need & rank				
Develop regional data network data repositories.	Review need & rank	It is not clear that this is needed other than for specific mandates. The challenges (political and financial) are substantial. If many of the preceding recommendations are satisfied the need for data repositories will be reduced.			NED is not developing repositories
The regional data network should provide access to modeling information and basic analytical tools to perform user-defined queries, simple statistics, and trend analyses against databases.	Review need & rank	Long term if at all. Needed tools should be clearly defined before action is taken.			No action on this
Develop WWW-enabled interactive mapping tool.	Review need & rank	Other entities have this capability. The region should define what information should be conveyed by an interactive mapping tool.			NED is not developing
Develop regional data network	II	Monitoring protocols is mostly being			

monitoring protocols and data standards addressing data collection, storage and analysis.		done by other groups, however regional coordination is still necessary.			
Develop and implement region-specific metadata tools.	II	This is potential demonstration.			
Develop regional data network technical assistance.	II	This is important as a part of all projects. While technical capability is not uniformly spread across the region, the regional system is as weak as the weakest link.			
Establish guidelines for becoming a regional data network node.	III				Need to develop
Develop a regional data network using a distributed system architecture based on an enterprise approach.	III	Regardless of whether the region relies on more of a distributed system architecture or repositories (and the region is currently using both), regional efficiencies and data quality will be improved with the adoption of regional standards and protocols.			EPA has a model system
Develop tools that will enable searching, accessing, acquiring, sharing, and contributing information resources about the regional resource management efforts.	III	Possibly as a demonstration.			Part of NED pilot effort
Develop regional data network conceptual design and demonstration package (interactive presentation).	Review need & rank				Part of NED pilot effort
Develop a regional data network working prototype. (metadata server)	Review need & rank	A regional metadata server is one needed part a regional information system. It could first be developed as a prototype.			Pilot effort in development
			Adhere to policy of open standards	Technical Architecture - general	What open standards?
			Develop security requirements early and adhere to them	Technical Architecture - general	Part of NED pilot
			Follow REST view of SOA – intelligent documents, simpler interfaces	Technical Architecture - general	?????
			Actively conduct tech transfer program to support collaboration among stakeholders	Technical Architecture - general	Need to develop
			Develop and publish reference architecture for the system	Technical Infrastructure – short term	
			Deploy registry/repository that conforms to OGC extensions to ebRIM and provide access via simple web portal	Technical Infrastructure – short term	Does NED pilot perform
			Deploy light-weight user configurable map browser	Technical	Part of NED pilot project

				Infrastructure – short term	
			Deploy access mechanism to download registered data sets	Technical Infrastructure – short term	Part of NED pilot project
			Select small number of representative datasets and WMS services and register them in the catalog	Technical Infrastructure – short term	Part of NED Pilot project
			Deploy internet mapping framework that enables development of more complex applications	Technical infrastructure – mid and long term	Part of NED pilot project
			Start adding rich content to catalog	Technical infrastructure – mid and long term	????
			Add search engine capability to the catalog (Google)	Technical infrastructure – mid and long term	Part of NED pilot project
			Deploy WFS based data replication as data access mechanism	Technical infrastructure – mid and long term	????
			Continue to add data, services, rich content	Technical infrastructure – mid and long term	
			Add support for WCS (web coverage service) (for access to GEOSS data holdings)	Technical infrastructure – mid and long term	????
SAIC RECOMMENDATIONS THAT NED STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERED TO BE OUT OF NED SCOPE					
Develop regional goals, objectives and measures (e.g., performance measures, indicators) that cut across and integrate individual agency missions and mandates.	Review need & rank	Subbasin Planning/other planning entities have this role			Move out of NED Program
Establish a regional research and monitoring strategy.	Review need & rank	This is an important goal, but it is a goal that scientific staff in RM&E groups should lead			Move out of NED Program
Develop an online, interactive research and monitoring inventory.	Review need & rank	This is an important goal, but it is a goal that scientific staff in RM&E groups should lead			Move out of NED Program
Develop a means to compile historic metadata.	Review need & rank		Manage regional data legacy (inventory, prioritize, develop metadata)	Data Content – longer term	